

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JUN 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A clamp for fastening and connecting tubes (2, 3), in particular for fastening a junction tube on a heat exchanger in a motor vehicle, **characterized** in that at least one end region (8) of the clamp (1) is bent back.
2. (Original) The clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the bent-back end region (8) of the clamp (1) has at least one sharp edge.
3. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, characterized in that, in the assembled state, the bent-back end region (8) is in bearing contact against at least one flange (4) or bead of a tube (2).
4. (Original) The clamp as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the bent-back end region has a sharp-edged design in the region of bearing contacts.
5. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a maximum of one tab (6) projecting radially outward in the assembled state is provided on the clamp (1).
6. (Original) The clamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that no projecting tab is provided on the clamp (1).
7. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the end regions (8) of the clamp (1) are bent back in such a way that they form approximately the shape of a rounded triangle.

8. (Original) The clamp as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the triangles have no angle above 90°.

9. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in claim 7 ~~[[or 8]]~~, characterized in that the triangles are approximately equilateral.

10. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a slot (7), which runs in the longitudinal direction of the clamp (1), is provided in the region of at least one end region (8) of the clamp (1).

11. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in claims 7 ~~and 10~~, characterized in that the slot (7) runs over two sides of the corresponding triangle.

12. (Currently amended) The clamp as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the clamp (1) is designed essentially symmetrically with respect to a transverse axis.